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American

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JOHN N. LUFF, Editor.

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Ridiculous! WITH this word the Stamp Collector's Fortnightly concludes a short comment upon a recent competitive exhibition held in New York City. The sting of the criticism lies in its justice. The exhibition referred to was one of Australian stamps, for which Messrs Stanley Gibbons had offered three handsome prizes, but only two collections were entered. The competition had been announced months in advance, giving ample time for preparation, and it is not at all to the credit of collectors in the country in general and those who are residents of this city in particular, that they should show so little interest in the competition or so little appreciation of the courtesy of the giver of the prizes.

What is the matter with us? It is certain that no fault could be found with the subject of the competition. British Colonial stamps are favorites with our collectors and those of the Australian Colonies are everywhere regarded as being of especial interest. Then, why should we not take more interest in an exhibition of them and try to make it a success? Admitting that the stamps of these countries are not easy to obtain in perfect condition and that most of us have not as extensive holdings as we would like, especially of unused copies, that is not a good excuse for not showing what we have. If we cannot make as brilliant a display as might be possible with some other countries, that is no reason why we should not do the best we

can with this group.

It would be hard to say just why collectors failed to exhibit on this occasion. Several of our prominent local collectors always decline to enter competitions and usually refuse to make an exhibit hors concours. Their reply to any suggestion about exhibiting their stamps is that they "do not care to do so." If they have any more valid excuse to offer they do not make it. There is little doubt that one leading collector stayed out of this competition because he was dissatisfied with the decision in a previous instance, and a number of his friends followed his example. Possibly he was justified and we would have done the same under similar circumstances, but that is another subject. What deterred the rest of the collectors we do not know—indifference or laziness probably. Unless a man has the good of philately very much at heart he is not apt to take much trouble to entertain other collectors. It cannot be denied that these exhibitions of 50 or 100 stamps are very upsetting to collections. If a whole country is to be shown, an album can be

tucked under ones arm and taken to the meeting and no further exertion is required. But an exhibition of a specified number of the best stamps requires much selecting, the removal of the stamps (and always more are taken out than are needed), mounting and, finally, their return to the collection. This means a lot of work and possible damage to some of the stamps. But we ought to be willing to make some sacrifices for the benefit of our fellow

collectors. Some of them have done as much for us.

Competitive exhibitions have certainly had a stimulating effect on societies and collecting but it is becoming a question if they are not being over done. Complaint is made that in every society most of the prizes go to a few collectors and ways to obviate this are continually being sought by those who have the exhibitions in charge. It is also notorious that some collectors never exhibit unless they feel certain of carrying off the honors. This is not the true competitive spirit nor the one which should animate these exhibitions if they are to do the most good. After all, the giving of prizes, like giving presents, is only a sort of bribery. It would be more real honor to win a diploma, a ribbon or something of no intrinsic value.

It is obvious that anything which keeps up the interest of collectors, instructs the beginners and may possibly attract the attention of those who are not philatelists, deserves all the encouragement we can give it. Competitive exhibitions have usually been credited with results of this nature. If we cannot take a more elevated view of the subject, we might remember that anything which stimulates the general interest in philately tends to insure the permanence of the pursuit and the monetary value of our collections. It is

a poor argument but a comforting one to poor spirited people

Fellow collectors, if we have reached a point that we are unwilling to take trouble, if we are so indifferent that even the financial aspect does not move us, if we are too much occupied with other affairs, if for any reason we cannot make these exhibitions a success, then let us discontinue them. We must not have fiascos. When others begin to scoff at us it is time to bestir ourselves or else retire so completely that we will be forgotten and left alone in our humiliation. We cannot afford to be ridiculous. Pride should make this impossible for the philatelists of the greatest city in the country and the owners of some of the finest collections. We may be praised or

It must be confessed that many of our philatelic societies are sadly in need of new blood. The older collectors have passed the enthusiastic stage. Their collections have advanced so far that they make a good appearance and the relatively small number of stamps lacking may be patiently waited for. Most of them have acquired about as much philatelic information as they think they need The majority of them have also to meet the demands of family and social life. It is to be feared that there are some 'lean years' before us unless we get in a lot of younger collectors with a stock of enthusiasm, everything to learn and their collections to build up. It is this class of collectors that make lively societies and interesting meetings.



Our English Letter.

BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.

London, April 25, 1903.

It is very amusing to read in a contemporary of yours that a collector scoffs at the idea of the lithographed 5c Chilian being a discovery of Mr. Luff's. He has, says he, recognized lithographed Chilians in his collection for years Well, seeing that the lithographed Chilian has never been catalogued it is a wonder that this collector has never drawn attention to the omission. But, as the Scotch say: "I have ma doots" about his knowledge. Indeed I think it would be a safe bet to make that he has never even seen a lithographed Chilian. Although a specialist in the country I have not yet succeeded in securing a copy, and the best stocks in this country attest the fact that they are extremely rare.

Unpaid Letter stamps or Postage Dues as they are also termed, are somewhat on the down grade of popularity That being so it is a curious fact that the most interesting stamps recently issued should be of that class. I refer to the Postage Dues of Australia, which are practically the first issue of the Australian Commonwealth. It will be remembered that the die of the New South Wales Postage Dues has been ut lized by deleting the initials "N. S. W." In the first issue the space formerly occupied by those letters was left blank, but in the second, i.e., the current issue the space has been filled in with an ornament similar to the upper part of the design. The stamps of the issue with the blank space are getting very scarce, and some of them are very difficult to get at any price. The high value, 5 shillings, seems likely to be a very scarce stamp.

An Australian merchant on his way to Church last Sunday was good enough to stop me and present me with a pair of the 5s, of the blank space issue, on the envelope. Of course I duly remembered him in my subsequent devotions, for I had been searching in vain for a copy in dealers' stock books.

Here is a straw which may be taken into consideration when you are estimating which way the wind blows in the rise and fall in the values of stamps. In 1890 an English collector received from a relative in British Guiana some old stamps of that colony, amongst them were two copies of the 4 cents black on blue of 1856. One copy he put into the stamp auction of that year and it fetched £55. A few days since Messrs Venton Bull & Cooper, sold the other copy for the owner, and it realized no less than £98. Not a bad increase in price when we are all croaking about rock bottom prices.

I note that a kindly critic of mine in one of your contemporaries has

fitted on some stray prophet's mantel and started in prophesying that British Colonials are doomed to early neglect at the hands of collectors. I presume he means neglect by the collectors on your side, for I cannot believe that even a crank prophet would go so far as to venture on such on extraordinary prophecy for collectors in this country. Well, when you have multiplied your colonial responsibilities, your local side show stamps and your precancelled arrangements I guess you will have enough to attend to at home without bothering about Australian, British Guiana. Canadian and other British rubbish. Then, ah then, we will buy you out cheep Hasten that day all you can, for your collectors have a lot of good stuff we sadly need on this side.

LONDON, May 2, 1903.

A lot of twaddle is being evolved in discussions as to the pros and cons of specialism, as the result of the campaign against bloating started by Mr. Oldfield. A few curiosities are trumpeting their own ill-informed views of specialism. Some seem to imagine that specialists do nothing but collect mere defects of broken letters etc. The average medium collector who does not trouble to read the philatelic journals, and draws upon a shallow, starved imagination for his information, gets as much idea of the methods of the great specialists as the man in the moon. Indeed, it is surprising how industriously some people will fag away to make a display of the profundity of their ignorance. A crank or two are seen gobbling up some oddities of broken letters, temptingly offered by a dealer who laughs up his sleeve whilst he booms them as scarce varieties, and these cranks are accepted as samples of specialists by the ignoramus who looks on open-mouthed. The real specialist goes his own road and pursues the even tenor of his studies, unmindful of the rag-tag and bob-tail who criticise his so-called ways.

Indeed, it is a pity that this storm in a tea cup has been brewed over the bloating of a few selfish collectors, for the evil is not so far reaching, and is never likely to be so far reaching, as to lead the fashion to such an extent as Mr. Oldfield fears. Shut bloating out of exhibitions, and discourage mere selfish displays, and bloating will be robbed of more than half its allurements. The student specialist, however, must and will bloat, for without large numbers of the same stamp he would more often than not be running the serious risk of generalising on insufficent evidence.

Some good folks appear to be somewhat surprised at the eccentricities of our Australian friends in continuing to issue all sorts of makeshift queen's head issues. Personally I do not see so very much to excite ones wonder. They are obviously tiding over the interregnum between the birth of the Commonwealth and the time when one design will take the place of the various State issues, and, that being so, they do not apparently think it worth while to go to the expense of new designs and plates and are accordingly patching up whatever can be made to serve the temporary purposes of the interval. It may seem a trifle economical, but it is understandable.

Not a few collectors are getting tired of keeping pace with the curiosities that are resulting from this manufacture of makeshifts. They are not to be blamed very much, but time may show that it would have been better to have patiently plodded on. Out of the many changes through which Australians are passing not a few may survive as valuable mementoes of this period of change, of transition from many States into a grand nationality or Commonwealth. The wise collector will secure at new issue rates as well centered a specimen as he can get of any genuine change of design and watermark.

But for unexpected and frequent changes New Zealand takes the cake in all Oceania. I have been puzzling over the varieties of paper and perforation for some time in the endeavor to simplify their arrangement in my own collection. With the exception of the Waterlow and Basted Mills double lined N Z watermarked paper it seems to me plain sailing. The catalogue describes the Basted Mills paper as thin. This puzzles me at present as being, to say the least, inadequate But I hope to clear up the matter shortly. The very latest surprise is the 2s current stamp on laid paper. Evidently the New Zealand Government printers are at their wits end to attain to a satisfactory standard of local work. They certainly do not fail from lack of experiment.

It is very amusing to watch the antics of some actors from behind the scenes. Here for instance is one sage confidentially tipping his friends the wink to buy up new issues galore, by block and sheet. Another comes along, puts his fingers up to his nose, and says "dont you be such a noodle, my friend, take a wise man's advice and let 'em alone."

And yet another crusader, going home rather late one night, is said to have been heard singing, as he rolled along:—

There was an old Stampist of 'chester, We cursed and we blest her; She plastered her pages With rarest of guages, That wily old Stampist of 'chester.

LONDON, May 9, 1903.

A very noticeable philatelic development here just now is the marked increase in our English Official series. For the purposes of account many departments on our Government service are now being provided with specially overprinted stamps. Up to date we already have the following: Inland Revenue, Govt. Parcels, Office of Works, Army Official, Board of Education, Royal Household, and Admiralty. There have been quite an alarming number of official warnings against officials making other than official use of these stamps, including a special warning to army officials by Lord Roberts. Consequently, some have been extremely difficult to obtain. Of course a few will filter through despite the most terrible warnings, but the few that do filter through are not enough to supply the demand for them. As a result, many of this special class are running up into astounding prices.

Sometime ago a well known Strand dealer told me that he had just paid \pounds 16 per set for four sets of the one of the Departments, and here are a few figures from recent auction sales:

O. W. Official (Office of Works) 1902. Queen's Head.

½d green,	15.0
5d purple and ultramarine	19.0
rod purple and scarlet	6.150
is green and scarlet	7 0.0

Not a few specialists have taken hard and fast to these Officials, for they know they are above suspicion, and the extraordinary precautions taken to prevent any copies passing into the hands of collectors in the unused form, only add zest to the game. Already they promise to rank as favorites of the Departmental class with the much prized Departmentals of South Australia, indeed, if other Departments are added, as seems likely, we shall soon have an eager section of English Official specialists.

And what is more, not even Kitchener himself could stop the leakage that must ensue to meet the demand, for when a specialist goes for what he needs he is going to get it at all hazards, even if he stands a chance of being hung, drawn and quartered in the attempt.

Of course used copies will have to satisfy the less ambitious amongst us, for even current issues unused are fetching a terrible price. Sometime ago I nearly sent a high official off his head by asking him, more by way of joke than seriously, for a set of his Department. I knew I had no chance, but I wanted to see the effect of the recent orders, and by Joseph I gained a very clear conception of the terror they have struck into the more concientious.

We are now at the end of our season and so far it has been a very quiet one from the point of literary production. The London Philatelic Society has given us nothing, nor has Gibbons produced any Handbook. But next season should be a more prolific one, for several important works are promised, and some at least should be ready for publication. The London Society should give us part Part III of South Africa before 1904 is ended, and Gibbons has promised a Handbook of Sicily by Dr. Diena. The forthcoming magnum opus of the premier Society on Australia can scarcely be expected, I presume, for at least another year or more.

And where the Society is to get the funds to face the Australian book I should like to know. It has been officially stated that it will cost considerably over £600, and the last balance sheet of the Society shows that it is really in debt. The work might be published by subscription, but then that would interfere with the right of the members to free copies If it be produced like the English book and members have to pay for it there is apt to be grumbling. I fear, for members have had no work for a long time.

Dr. Diena's work on Sicily is being looked forward to with much interest, for this compact little one issue country is becoming something of a favorite with a few specialists. I was shown Mr Wickham Jones' specialised collection a few weeks since and it was an eye opener. What with retouches and different plates indicated by the spacing between the stamps it was a grand show. Sicily has always been a bit of a favorite with me, and I am beginning to regret that I did not accumulate used copies some years ago when they were to be had for pence instead of shillings. The unused are getting scarcer, and in a few years will not be easy to find in mint condition. A large stock of remainders has kept the market supplied up to now, but that is all but absorbed.

In the current issue of Gibbon's Monthly Journal Major Evans has his say on the question of bloating. Like myself, he does not believe that bloating is so common as it seems to be supposed. Nor does he believe that mere duplicates in an exhibit have any weight with judges in our exhibitions, indeed he asserts that he has never seen a prize awarded to a collection which depended for its supremacy upon a multitude of mere duplicates. That is an assuring announcement from one who has frequently served as a judge

France and Colonies seem to be coming to the fore, if one may judge by the price announced to have been paid to M. Marconnet, of Nice, for his collection of those countries. The sum is said to have been about £2200. About? Humph! Multitudinous surcharges made without rhyme or reason have damned the French Colonies, and I question very much whether with such an overburden they will ever be popular out of France.

By the way, talking about surcharges, I am forcibly reminded that my generous offer in the A. J. or P. to buy up, at waste paper price, all the surcharges of the Anti surchargists on your side has not resulted in a single consignment. That rascally editorial note, intervening with a similar request, must have interupted several cargoes, for I feel certain people who declare these things to be not worth waste paper price must have jumped at my offer.*

As Mr. Editor has made some reference to the sale of my Transvaals I may be excused for adding a word or two. He is good enough to explain that I expect to retain my philatelic interest and continue as a collector. I should rather think I do expect to continue as a collector, and as a collector of Transvaals, as a specialist too in Transvaals. I may not even be able to resist my old temptation to bloat a bit, for, in the solution of the many remaining problems, apparent duplicates are important.

Well, I not only expect to continue as a collector but to enlarge the

^{*}Nore—The Editor announces with profound regret that no cargoes of surcharged stamps have come into his hands. He has about reached the conclusion that the fellows who howl about surcharges do not possess any and that those who do own them cannot be induced to part with their cargoes by any means short of piracy.

modest field of my operations. I am, before everything else, a philatelic scribbler, and long experiences has taught me that if you wish to write about stamps you must be as well furnished with stamps for reference as possible. To that end I have opened out more into general collecting, and not being a millionaire, and wanting also a shanty in a cosy corner of this little isle, something had to be realised. And it is something to the good for stamps to have to admit that I should have lost very heavily had I attempted to realise on anything else.

In the matter of Transvaals I have now to thank my lucky star that I have come somewhat under my friend Mr. Oldfields condemnation as a bloater. When other collectors sneered at Transvaals I gathered up the refuse right and left, and my accumulations enabled me to arrive at conclusions which would have been out of the question without those accumulations, and now, after selling my plums, I have a fine specialized collection left in the shape of duplicates to continue my studies in this most fascinating country.

My reference collection is making as much headway as a busy man can expect it to make. My friend C. J. P. says it is absurd of me to attempt what I am doing, but I am a great believer in having a settled plan and sticking to it and ploding on country by country, as best I can. I am gathering into special movable leaf albums the stamps of each country and therewith all reliable published matter thereon. Already I have over a hundred fairly under way. Now and then the specialist in me runs away with a country and I find myself neglecting everything else for the time but that one volume.

A telegram in *The Times* this morning announces that a Colonial Office Commission on currency for the Federated Malay States has recommended the introduction of a gold standard with a Straits dollar of the same weight and fineness as the British dollar. Ultimately the Mexican and British dollars are to be demonetised. This, it may be assumed, will involve some alterations in the postage stamps, for the Straits postal authorities do not need much excuse for surcharges or changes in the stamps. So do not be surprised if this change in the dollar results first in a wholesale series of surcharges and then in an entirely new series of postage stamps. If it does not then you may reckon that some great moral revolution has seized the postal authorities of the Straits.

There is quite a little excitement over the recently received additional surcharged values of Niue. A week or so ago three new values were received, 3d, 6d., and 1s. all of course, as before, surcharged on New Zealand stamps. It now turns out that, apparently through ignorance of Polynesian, the New Zealand printer overprinted the shilling value "Niue-Tahae Sileni" instead of "Taha". "Tahae Sileni" it seems is literally 'thief shilling". Hence the authorities, evidently rather ashamed of the very bad error, at once set about recalling every traceable copy with which they had parted. A few had

been sold to collectors, and a small supply to Ewen Ewen was telegraphed to for his supply, which he says he returned under protest, and under the belief that he was the only dealer who received a supply. Fortunately for me, my old friends Messrs Whitfield King & Co received a small lot, and the first I heard of the error was a letter from them congratulating me on having had a bargain from them in their recent supply of new issues to me. The next post brought Ewen's Weekly with a lamentation over having had to return his supply.

Already the London dealers are offering $\pounds\iota$ apiece for copies, but that price does not tempt Messrs. Whitfield King & Co to part with the few they have left, and Ewen talks of collectors having to pay £5 or £10 each unless they (Ewen & Co) are fortunate enough to get their returned lot sent back.

It is said that only £5 worth were printed before the mistake was discovered but Ewen's figures would indicate more than this, for he speaks of "only 94 or 96 sold apart from those bought for him" Anyway his is a hard case. If he gets them back he hints at only a "moderate premium" on face value Well, I guess his customers will have to do a ballot for the "moderate premium" copies.

Ewen in his Weekly gives an illustration photographed from a block of 10, two rows of five with the errors, and treats us to a dissertation on Polynesian from information gathered as the result of this little mistake of the New Zealand printers. What a different complexion he would have been able to put on matters if he had acquired his knowledge of Polynesian before the event, instead of after. Then he could have spotted the error, and have act-d accordingly, after generously calling the attention of the printers to their inexcusably bad error.

As a matter of fact I came very near to nosing into the lingo myself some weeks ago, tempted thereto by reading Mrs. Churchill's charming book "Samoa 'Uma" Her explanations of Samoan struck me as being very much like Niue, and I got out my stamps to look into the matter. But, alas, a busy journalist has little time to pursue what is seemingly off the track of his present needs, and there the investigation ended If I had pursued my inquiries into priming myself with the first few numerals of Niue I should have gathered enough information to guide me to the possession of a block of four, or say a row off the top sheet with the plate number. However, I will be satisfied with my one ewe lamb.



Some Stamp Designs.

C. A. Howes.

(Continued from page 107.)

[Mr. A. F. Basset Hull in the Australian Journal of Philately kindly corrects a few statements in the November, 1902, installment of these papers. The Tasmanian pictorials, as I have since learned, were engraved on copper by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., in the same manner as the pictorials for Malta, the current Virgin Islands stamps, etc., due to the same firm. The statement that they emanated from Messrs. Waterlow & Sons were on the authority of Ewen's Weekly. Concerning Mt. Wellington Mr. Hull says: "The 'Organ Pipes' are credited with occupying more space than they can actually claim. This precipice does not exclusively take up the whole side facing Hobart. It is only 800 feet in height while the mountain is over 4,000, and the pipes are over to the left side, sufficient space remaining to the right to afford comparatively easy access to the summit."

Criticism will be welcomed as it is the aim of these articles to make the information as correct as possible. Unfortunately in the last article (page 106) a printer's error made the name of the parrot on the 2s. 6d Tongan stamp a Maka when it should have been Kaka—the same name though not

the same bird as pictured on the current 1sh New Zealand.]

About 350 miles north of the Tonga Islands we find another group which has been the field not only of exciting political controversy but also of equally exciting philatelic controversy and in whose issues at least three nationalities of stamp collectors have found great interest. The Samoa Islands were discovered and explored in 1768 by the French navigator Bougainville and named by him the "Isles des Navigateurs." The origin of the native name is somewhat obscure, there being several legends to account for it The most ancient and perhaps most reasonable derivation ascribes it to Moa, the family name of the Kings of Manua, which island (now belonging to the United States) the natives suppose to be the progenitor of the group; to this name the addition of the word Sa makes Samoa, or in English "the family of Moa." There are about a dozen islands in the group though but four are of any size.

The first missionary arrived in August, 1830, and later the traders followed settling chiefly at Apia, the most important town of the group, which finally contained quite an European population But, as usual in such cases, there was a disorderly element of outcast whites and half breeds which stirred up a continual strife that the native government could not control. The result was that on September 2, 1879, a convention was signed by the representatives of Germany, the United States, Great Britain and Samoa, creating the Municipality of Apia By this convention, due largely to the efforts of Sir A. H. Gordon, the British Commissioner, the native government gave up all jurisdiction over the town, harbor and neighborhood of Apia within certain defined limits, known as the District of Apia, though there was to be no alienation of Samoan authority over the district and the native flag was still

to float over it. The government of the district was vested in a Municipal Board composed of the three consuls and three others nominated by them, one apiece. This Board had the usual powers in matters of police, licenses,

taxes and public works.

In this town, before the Municipality was formed, the same Mr. George L. Griffiths of whom we have already heard in connection with the Fiji Times, established a newspaper called the Samoa Times. About five years after the suppression of the "Fiji Times Express" stamps it evidently occurred to him that there was a similar field open for a post in Samoa and, accordingly, we find an issue of "Samoa Express" stamps making their appear-

ance in October, 1877.

I have never been able to obtain any extensive history of this post, only occasional "scraps" being met with, but it would seem, at least from the name "Express" and Mr. Griffiith's connection with it, to have been constituted along the same lines as the Fiji Express service already described in the last article. This supposition is increased by the fact that the values of the stamps were the same as for the "Fiji Times Express," viz.: 1, 3, 6, 9d, and 1sh, though with a 2sh and 5sh added. The Samoa Express post was conducted by a Mr. W. E. Agar who was the editor of the Samoa Times.



Of the stamps themselves there is but little to say as the design is not noteworthy, and the main reason for introducing them here is due to their connection with the similar issue already described under Fiji. Mr. Griffiths had the stamps lithographed by the firm of S. T. Leigh & Co. of Sydeman M. S. W. all values except the introducing them here is due to their ney, N. S. W., all values except the 1 penny being in sheets of ten, two horizontal rows of five The 1 penny was double size, having four horizontal rows of five. Being a private speculation the stamps were not recognized by other countries on their first appearance, and letters bearing them had to be accompanied by cash to the proper amount when sent to Auckland, Sydney or San Francisco, where New Zealand. New South Wales or United States stamps were added to carry them the rest of their journey. This was the case for at least two years, as a piece of cover with Sam a and New Zea land stamps, postmarked in October, 1879, shows; but it is stated on good authority that an arrangement was later made with the New Zealand governmeat whereby the Express stamps were accepted on all mail passing through that colony as proper vouchers for the postage paid, and no additional stamps were therefore required when sent by that route. Mr. Agar died about the end of 1881 or the beginning of 1882 and the operation of the Express post thereupon ceased

Soon after Mr. Agar's death, and several years at least before the second set of Samoa stamps appeared, Mr. John Davis, a photographer of Apia became postmaster of that place. That this arrangement was merely a town affair for the convenience of the European residents and had no connection with the native Samoan government, which was hardly in a condition at that

time for such an evidence of civilization, there is no doubt. I have been unable to find, however, whether it was instituted by the Municipal Board of Apia or was due solely to Mr. Davis' enterprise. At any rate at its inception it was on a par with the ' Local Posts" of the Chinese Treaty Ports, and from all accounts Mr. Davis evidently made as "good a thing" out of it as some of his confrères across the Pacific. The post-office was in Mr. Davis' shop, but it was not the only one in Apia for the Germans had established a postal agency at the German Consulate on September 21, 1886. which was admitted to the Postal Union on February 1, 1887, and which employed regular German stamps. American stamps could also be obtained (from the ('onsul?) but the statement that English stamps were sold I can find no proof of. German trade interest were predominant, which doubtless accounts for the establishment of the German Agency, but if British stamps had been procurable it would probably have been through a Consular post office which would have had its registered number like all such extra-territorial offices. An examination of the lists of numbers given British post offices up to 1892 fails to reveal any sign of one for "Apia" or "Samoa."



In 1887 Mr. Davis obtained from the Government Stamp Printing Office in Wellington, N. Z., the well known and much abused set of stamps with the cocoanut palms as their chief feature. The die was engraved by Mr. A. E. Cousins, who later made the Tongan dies, and the electros for the plates were made by a Mr. Kirk who had charge of that work in the Government Printery. The source of the stamps explains the N Z and star watermark. The cocoa palm was probably chosen as being the representative tree of the islands as it is indeed of all the sub-tropical islands of the Pacific. It is one of nature's greatest gifts to the easy going natives, supplying them with almost all their immediate wants. Cocoanuts are not the chief product of

the islands, however, for that is cotton.

Controversy as to status of these stamps has at times waxed exceedingly warm but the facts, as now known, are these. Mr. Davis succeeded in obtaining from New Zealand the same agreement that it is claimed was in force with regard to the old Express stamp, so that mails sent through this colony bore the new Samoan stamps alone and were forwarded as fully prepaid. sent to foreign countries by any other route the proper amount of international upostage was added at Apia either in stamps of Germany or the United States though in the latter case, as before the mail matter could be forwarded to San Francisco with the cash and the corresponding amount of stamps would be added at the post office there. This arrangement continued until August, 1801, when an agreement was made between the United States Post Office Department and Mr. Davis as postmaster, whereby all mail matter exchanged between the two countries should be delivered without further charge if fully prepaid by stamps of the country of origin. This did not apply to letters passing through the United States to other countries, which, as before, had also to be stamped with United States stamps to the proper international

amount. It will thus be seen that the stamps acquired an international status by the arrangements with New Zealand and the United States, but were not freely so, as Samoa never regularly entered the Postal Union nor had any postal convention with countries other than the two mentioned, as far as I can find. A corresponding case is now seen in China whose stamps, heretofore local, are now international, but only if forwarded through the French mails.



In 1894 a rather unique stamp was brought out in a 5 pence value, it being no less than a copy of the Samoan flag, which lent itself quite readily to the idea and which was printed in its proper color, red. This flag was a product of the missionaries who helped to form the so-called constitutional government in 1873, and, as the illustration shows, is a Greek cross in white on a red field, the upper left canton containing a white star. The crown shown on the stamp does not belong on the flag proper, but was evidently added to balance the stamp design. The idea was quite novel.



Samoa has but one stamp which shows a portrait - that of the unfortunate Malietoa Laupepa of whom an excellent likeness is given on the 21/2 pence stamp of 1892. As an example of the old adage "Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown" Laupepa can take his stand with earth's most troubled monarchs. Born of an ancient royal line somewhere about the middle of the last century, he was the nineteenth King according to the traditions of his dynasty. His name. Laupepa, means in English "Sheet of Paper" and some have explained this appelation by his studious inclinations. As the name was probably given him before he had developed many inclinations of any kind, the explanation can be taken for what it is worth. Malietoa (properly pronounced Ma-lee-ä tó-å) was his dynastic title and was of the highest honor in the islands Its origin dates to the time, years ago, when the Tongans who had conquered Samoa were finally driven out by the native chiefs As the last canoe sailed away its occupants, evidently admiring in their defeat the courage of the Samoans, called back Malié Toa - Well done, good fighting-cock! This subriquet was adopted by the victorious chief and was transmitted to his successors.

Laupepa was educated by the missionaries for the ministry, but his high birth brought other duties upon him which he could not shirk. For centuries the islands, with exception of Tutuila, had been governed by the two royal houses of Malietoa and Tapua. In 1873, with the aid of the missionaries and European residents an attempt at a constitutional monarchy was made,

by which these two kings were to rule jointly, assisted by a House of Nobles (Taimua) and a House of Representatives (Foipule). The elective system was only in name for, as a rule if a member became "tired" he went home. and if any one else cared to take his place they went to Apia; if not, it didn't matter. This curious dual kingship, however. was productive of much strife until Malietoa Laupepa succeeded in investing himself with most of the power and was finally crowned King of all Samoa on March 19, 1881. Mataafa, a relative of Laupepa, and Tamasese, of the house of Tapua, attempted to set up a rival monarchy, but the consuls of the United States Germany and Great Britain interfered and as a "sop" to the Tapua family placed Tamasese

in the nondescript office of "Vice-King."

Although these three powers had severally agreed to respect the independence of the islands in their treaties of 1878 and 1879, yet the Germans were ever on the alert to toment trouble, as an excuse for interference and final control. In 1884, they forced a treaty on Malietoa which was practically a protectorate but had to disavow it on account of the opposition of Great Britian and the United States. The game was kept up, nevertheless, and as Malietoa did not prove tractable a better tool was chosen in the person of Tamasese (pronounced Tama-say-say) As soon as opportunity offered, charges were trumped up against Malietoa and his practical deposition effected while Tamasese was proclaimed King and supported by German guns. In August, 1887, Malietoa gave himself up, was placed on board a German warship and taken to the Cameroons and later to Hamburg. From thence he was taken back to Jaluit in the Marshall Islands. But, meanwhile, Great Britain and the United States had again protested at Germany's action and the natives, refusing to recognize the German puppet, had crowned Mataafa as Laupepa's successor on September q, 1888. Interesting, was it not; the King in exile yet morally supported by two foreign powers; a de facto King supported by the guns of a third foreign power; and yet the natives had the temerity to assert their own choice in a third King What about truth and fiction?

The outcome was a new conference on Samoa which met in Berlin and came to a final agreement on June 14, 1889. By th's the three powers guaranteed the neutrality and independence of the islands and recognized the right of the natives to elect their King and follow their own laws and customs. A Supreme Court was also established consisting of one judge, known as the Chief Justice of Samoa, who was appointed by the powers and was to decide all questions not covered by the treaty. Laupepa was then released by Ger many and returned to his home in November, 1899, only to find his relative and suppor'er, Mataafa, supreme in the native regime and in their affections. Then ensued a most remarkable "Alphonse and Gaston" exhibition. Malietoa refused to accept the crown and insisted on Mataafa's retaining it; Mataafa on his part refused to continue in his royal position of only a little over a year and insisted on Malietoa's resuming his former rights and title as King of Samoa. The latter finally did so, though Mataafa remained as an active assistant.

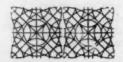
But this was too Utopian to last. Within two years the natives began to clamor for Mataafa again: disaffection spread and at last broke out in open warfare which was only stopped by the intervention of the Consuls in 1893, and the deportation of Mataafa to the Marshall Islands. The next year Tamasese broke loose again but was quickly suppressed, and nominal peace reigned until August 22, 1898, when Malietoa Laupepa took his last journey to that land where foreign consuls were not and rival chiefs ceased from

troubling.

Here we might leave these unhappy islands were it not that the words PROVISIONAL GOVT. loom before us and require a raison d'êtré. It seems that when Laupepa died the Consuls of the three powers, with the Chief Justice as President, took over the administration pending the election of a successor. In the meantime Mataata was allowed to return from the Marshall Islands and was speedily elected King by a portion of the chiefs, but others disputed this and referred the matter to the Chief Justice for decision. After investigation, the latter declared Laupepa's son, young Tanumafili, to be the ligitimate claimant; but the German Consul, as usual, refused to recognize the decision and supported Mataafa, though the latter was expressly debarred by the Berlin Agreement. Hostilities were the result, in which the foreigners took part and a number of British and Americans were killed. Upon the recommendation of the powers, however, a truce was called until matters could be amicably settled. In the meantime Laupepa's son had been crowned King on March 23, 1899, as Malietoa Tanu and thus matters rested until the arrival of the Commissioners of the three powers who were sent out to unravel the tangle. This they eventually did by persuading young Malietoa to abdicate, whereupon they declared the 'office of King abolished, and on June 10, 1899, issued a proclamation continuing the Chief Justice in his office and constituting the President of the Municipality of Apia with the three Consuls as a Provisional Government, pending a definite settlement

Here then was the opportunity but not the necessity for the surcharge on the then current stamps. The absence of a 2½ pence value is accounted for by the fact that the one bearing Laupepa's likeness was retired after his death, and the omission made (more than) good by surcharging other values. As the stamps bore no indication by word or design of any political status in the islands—save for the crown on the 5 pence—there was no need for the Provisional Government surcharge except the opportunity to make capital out of it; and in this respect the private nature of the Samoan post office and its lack of connection with the Samoan government itself will be recalled. The stamps did postal duty, as their predecessors had done, so they are as legitimate as the the others. But their life was not a long one, as further consideration by Great Britain and Germany led to the former giving up her interests in Samoa in exchange for Germany's like action in Tonga, and the division of the islands between Germany and the United States. The Anglo German agreement was reached on November 14, 1899, and the American acceptance was given in January, 1900, and peace now reigns in Samoa.

There is but one item to add The "R" on the 2 pence stamp surcharged "3d." stands for Registration and the stamp should be listed, as in other countries under "Registration Stamps."



Our Indian Letter.

By E. W. WETHERELL

The Jubilee line is exercising the minds of collectors in India, as the Queens head ½ and 1 anna stamps, both in the old and new colors, are obtainable with, and without the line Corner and margin specimens of the stamps in the new colors without the line are well worth securing by collectors who are interested in this class of variation.

Two or three of the Emperor's head stamps, in addition to the 14, 15 and 1 anna already issued, have arrived in India and will be distributed as soon as the stock of Queen's head values is exhausted.

Rumor has it that a ten anna value will appear and also a stamp of 1 1/2 rupees or 2 1/2 rupees.

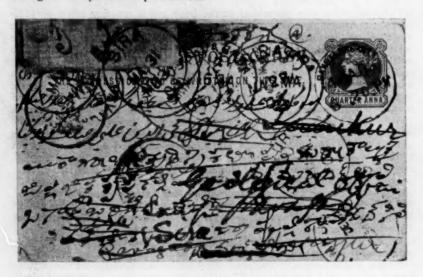
Official India is getting into its stride again after the excitement of the Durbar and the stamp clubs are again circulating their packets and holding their meetings.

The Durbar souvenirs, issued at one rupee, were cornered at once and ridiculous prices, such as 60 rupees, are asked for them. It is to be hoped that few will be so weak as to pay such an amount.

The following is an extract from an Indian dealers price list. good instance of "English as she is wrote":	It	is	a
India ¼ Anna over half anna dark green unsued India service East India ½.2.4 and 8 as: double the face value O. H. M. S. ½,2,4 and 8 as; east India face value.	0	1	0
Afghainstan one abasi used each	0	6	0
Patiala 11/2 anna are and obsolete unused	0	4	6
" service ½ a to 1 rupee ¾ th's of face value set of g stamps			
½ a to 1 rupee set R.	2	0	0
Jhind state, current	*		
1/2 anna to 6 annas 3/4 of the face value			
Gwalior state 1/2 a red usedordinary rare raseea	0	8	0
Faridkot rare and obsolete			
1/2 to 6 annas ordiny unused double the face value			
Holkar Half anna large oldrare nuused ea:	0	8	0
Bhopal set 1/2 to 8 as unused R.	2	0	0
1/4 and 1/4 anna doubl face values			
Chamba state 1/2,1,2: as set used perset	0	2	0
Partuguese India			
Kashmir ¼ anna ¼ anna ea each	I	0	0
Several other countries of the world details on application. 10 Percent Commission allowed on purchases of R. 25 andabove.			

The Simla Stamp Club has gone the way of all flesh in consequence of dishonesty on the part of one of the members, so we have one club the less. It may interest your readers to know that all the Indian Exchange clubs are conducted on the net system and all but two use Indian currency.

I append an illustration of a post card which followed one of my Mohomedan peons about the country—it is really wonderful how the officials manage to decipher such productions *



The record low salary of a postmaster is held by an unfortunate man in the Tumkur District. The post office rewards his services with the munificent stipend of two rupees a month—a little over half a dollar; needless to say he is the "proprietor" of an unusually large family

*Note.—Our illustration does not do full justice to this beevildering post card since, in addition to what we show, there were attached to it two slips of paper, each of which was covered on both sides with a tangle of native writing.—Editor—A J. P.



Philatelic Exhibition at Mülhausen (Alsace.)

LIST OF AWARDS AND DESCRIPTION OF THE EXHIBITS.

By F. E. WILSON.

Easter week saw assembled at the busy manufacturing town of Mülhausen in Alsace more philatelists, from many quarters of Europe, than have ever visited the town before, the raison d'etre of their presence being the above Philatelic Exhibition, organized by the Upper Alsace Philatelic Club

and the Philatelic Society of Mülhausen.

The Exhibition which had been thoroughly well advertised for the past year in the German philatelic press, was held in two of the handsome picture galleries on the second floor of "The New Museum." The fine collection of modern French paintings which adorns the walls being there as usual, it was possible and natural to turn one's eyes to these when weary of examining the many philatelic treasures displayed. The lighting being from above was perfect for the display of stamps, and as there was very little sun I do not think any of the exhibits suffered in the slightest degree from exposure

Herr Chr. de Loriol was the Honorary President of the Exhibition, Herr

Joseph Viénot presiding over the Exhibition Committee.

The following five gentlemen formed the jury: Messrs Paul Kohl, Hugo Krötzsch, Pierre Mahé, Baron de Reuterskiöld and Carl Willadt, all being present except Mons Mahé, in whose absence Mons Th. Lemaire of

Paris was placed on the jury.

The Exhibition was opened without any formality on Easter Sunday afternoon at 2.30 P. M and remained open daily until the following Thursday from 9 A M until 7 P. M. The price of admission was throughout the popular one of 50 pfennige (12 cents) The attendance was very good, particularly on Sunday and Monday when the large galleries were crowded with curious and interest spectators, ladies and officers being much in evidence.

The exhibits were arranged in somewhat deep square frames the deep ness of which allowed one or two of the exhibits, notably Herr Koch's unused German stamps in pairs strips and blocks to cockle up rather badly.

The small official exhibition catalogue sold at the low price of 10 pfennige contained a brief introduction giving the aim and object of the exhibition as being "The furtherance of stamp collecting and the study of philately." The catalogue was not otherwise remarkable except that in the case of collections the declared value of each exhibit was stated, with very few exceptions, possibly in order to impress recruits with the great importance of the financial side of modern philately.

An official illustrated post card with a special obliteration (without which no German exhibition, philatelic or otherwise, could possibly be considered

complete) was duly issued and used in considerable numbers

Among the prominent collectors present were. Herr Koch, Herr Hupfeld and daughter Herr Reinheimer and Mr. Mertzanoff and son of Athens Nearly all the leading members of the German stamp trade attended, as well as dealers from England, France. Holland, Belgium and Switzerland.

The following official programme of festivities was arranged and carried out in connection with the exhibition. On Saturday evening the 11th inst.

a kommers or beer evening at the Central hotel for the purpose of welcoming the visitors. On Monday midday the customary 'grosses festessen" was held at the Central hotel to which nearly seventy persons sat down. On Tuesday evening a meeting of the organizing societies was held at the Hotel zum Salmen at which there was a large muster of local members and visitors to the exhibition The t hairman of the meeting in the course of his remarks thanked very sincerely, on behalf of the societies, all the exhibitors who had confided their collections to them and he extended a very hearty welcome to all the visitors present. Herr Krötzsch of Leipzig then gave an address upon stamp collecting and the method of arranging a collection, specialised or general as the case might be; he illustrated his remarks by a selection of the recent issues of Guatemala mounted and arranged in various ways Afterwards all the members of the jury and a number of other gentlemen prominently connected with the exhibition were elected honorary members of the Upper Alsace Philatelic Club, their health being drunk with great cordiality by the united company. The proceedings terminated by a discussion as to the advisability of endeavouring to form a union of all the philatelic societies of Alsace Lorraine On Wednesday evening the prizes were distributed at the same locale and on Thursday the festivities were concluded by a "Good Bye" beer evening

To sum up the exhibits generally it must be stated that European stamps were as pre-eminent as at The Hague in '90', and that the Mülhausen exhibition did not contain a really first-class specialized collection of Great Britain or any British colony. Judging by several of the exhibits the "Limited specialism," so earnestly advocated by Mr. Oldfield, would appear to find more general favor on the continent than in England. This limited specialism was particularly noticeable in the case of Herr Koch's really fine collections of Germany and States, Switzerland and Roumania as well as in

several of the minor exhibits.

Mr H. J. Crocker's truly great and classic exhibit of Hawaii was far and away ahead of everything else as an example of an "unlimited" specialized collection, and it must have been a revelation to some of the collectors present, as showing what can be done by a wealthy and scientific collector with a country which does not at first sight appear to give great scope to the

advanced specialist.

The weak point of the exhibition was undoubtedly the very vague and indefinite scheme of exhibits or, one may truly say, the complete absence of any logical one. I believe the exhibition was originally announced as being an international one with special reference to the stamps of Alsace-Lorraine, so that, unfortunately, there was not the slightest attempt to arrange any countries into groups or even continents for the purpose of competition. The exhibits were roughly grouped in the catalogue thus:—(a) Alsace Lorraine (b) Germany and old German States. (c) France and colonies. (d) Switzerland, etc., etc., and had evidently been arranged and grouped according to the entries received.

At the same time, in spite of this very considerable defect, the exhibition, on the whole, was very creditable and successful, and one, moreover, in which almost any philatelic student (no matter how advanced he might be), could find something that was new to him, and exhibits from which he could increase his store of philatelic knowledge. It is also only fair to bear in mind that the exhibition was organized by two small societies situated in a town of medium size.

As at all the philatetic exhibitions it has been my lot to see, a great many countries were not represented at all, and it remains for the organizers of the

"ideal" show to give us one in which every country, no matter how small or philatelically unimportant, shall be represented

LIST OF AWARDS AND DESCRIPTION OF THE EXHIBITS

Part I-Stamps and Entires.

(a) Alsace-Lorraine.

Joseph Viénot-Gold medal and diploma.

For collection of used Alsace Lorraine stamps, arranged with special reference to the obliterations and including a very fine lot on pieces of originals and on the entire covers. Only a few pages were shown in the frames, the bulk being in albums.

Joseph Hupfeld-Gold medal and diploma of honor.

For a very fine specialised collection of Alsace-Lorraine, all being unused. Eight pages of the 1c olive green in singles pairs and blocks, including one of 120 stamps. Three and a half pages of the 2c red brown including a block of 100. Two and a half pages of 4c grey; three pages of 5c, in very fine ranges of shades from yellow green to deep green. Four pages of 10c in fine shades; two pages of 20c blue and three of 25c brown including a block of 35. The rare set with inverted net was very strong, it included singles of each value in shades, two copies of the very rare 5c yellow green and mint pairs and blocks of four of all values except the 5c.

Sets of the reprints were also shown.

G. Maréchal - Gold medal and dirloma.

For a very large and complete collection of Alsace Lorraine stamps, collected for the obliterations and including many of the rarest postmarks. This exhibit was also not shown in detail beyond a few pages.

C. Walch - Diploma.

Collection of Alsace-Lorraine fiscal stamps unused and used.

(b) Germany and old German States.

G. Koch - Gold medal and diploma of honor.

For collection of Germany and States, Switzerland and Roumania, as well as for a splendid lot of rarities of all countries evidently selected from a large and fine general collection. This was quite one of the best and most interesting exhibits in the show, the quality of all Herr Koch's stamps being

exceptionally good.

German Empire unused. A choice lot of singles, pairs, etc, with a few shades Fine lot of the 2 marks violet, 1875 77 (No 36), including a block of 50. Five blocks of 10 each and an entire sheet with margins of the 1880 issue 2 marks in various shades of color 1889 issue: pair, each 2, 25 and 5cpf imperforate 1900 issue: 25, 30, 40, 50 and 80pfg with the inscription REICHS POST in larger letters (from the first sheets), also a 5pfg blue (proof?)

The used German Empire contained an imperforate pair of the 5gr bistre,

1871. small shield (No. 6), postmarked "Leutersdorf 16 July '72."

Block of n ne of the logr grey, 1871, postmarked lopfg rose cut envelope, 875 issue, used as an adhesive on piece of original. Unused and used sets of eight kinds of the new Zahlmarken A 'Field Post" letter with land 5gr, 1871, small shield with 'Army of Occupation" postmark 1889 issue: 3 and 25pfge imperforate, used on an express post card with an

ordinary 3pf stamp. A copy of the Vineta provisional (3pf handstamped in

violet on half of . pf 1900), used on entire letter.

Large and complete collection of German colonies including a very fine lot of the German-China, Tsingtau and Foochow provisionals of 1900, 5pf on 10pf, in singles, blocks and strips and with the errors, double and inverted surcharges, etc., etc. Blocks of ten of the 20pf blue (Eagle type), proofs surcharged for ten different colonies. Also a number of interesting "Field

Post" letters and obliterations from the recent campaign in China,

North German Confederation, unused and used and on the entire letters. Unused imperforate strips of three each 1/3 gr green (No. 2a) with Plate No. and 1gr rose (No. 4a) with Plate No. 9. 1868: 2kr orange and 3kr rose (Nos. 8a and 9a) imperforate with large margins, used. Strips of three 1kr green imperforate (No. 7a) used on original; four 3kr rose (No. 9a) in similar condition. Official stamps, 1870, used; three 1kr, 2kr, 1krx2kr on original; four copies of krx kr do. do.

Alsace Lorraine. Full set unused with inverted net, ditto set used, also superb used pairs of 2, 5 and 25c, pair of 2c brown used on letter, five 4c

grey used on letter.

Unused vertical pair 4pf green, 1856-58, rouletted. A fine lot of the cut envelopes used as adhesives (on entire letters) including the

octagonal 6sg green.

Bergedorf All used: three ½s blue, two is black, i ½s yellow, three 3s blue, two 4s brown, some being on pieces of originals. The following used on the original covers :- two is black two 11/2s yellow, vertical strip of four 1/2s blue, 3sx4s used together and superb.

Brunswick. Digonal half of asgr blue 1853, used on original as 18gr.

Fine pair 1/2 gr green, 1862, Perce en arc, used on cover.

1865 issue: unused imperforate pair each 1/3rd and 1gr, ditto block of

four 3gr (No. 24a).

Unused, used and also on originals. Pair of 1cgr black percé Bremen. used; 7gr yellow perf. used. The following on entire originals: - four logr black, ferce; 7gr yellow, perf.; logr black, perf.

Hamburg. 1859 64, used imperforate pairs 1/2s black and 1s brown. Two copies of the 25 red used with the rare wavy "Ritzebuttel" obliterations. The following on original letters: - 1859 64, 2x4s imperf.; 9sch yellow, imperf. 1861-65, perf. pair 9s yellow with bar postmark and another pair with town postmark

All the above Hamburg were in superb condition

Hanover. Principally used, among them being diagonal halves of each of the following:-1856, 1-30th rose, 1-15th blue; 1859 61, 2g blue and 1g rose (two) all used on the entire covers; 1859-61, single copy and two pairs of log green on entires.

Lubeck. Two unused vertical pairs of 2s brown, 1859 in very distinct pale and dark shades, one stamp in each pair being the error "ZWEI EIN HALB." also a very fine used copy of the error. Block of four 1/2s lilac, 1861,

used on letter, 21/2s rose do. do.

Saxony. Mostly used, three singles and pair 3pf red. 1850, 1/2n g. pale blue, error, unused; 2n.g deep blue, used and showing curious fold in the

paper Two copies of 3pfg red used on entire covers.

Wurtemberg. Also mostly used. Superb copy each 70kr red violet and violet and a pair of each showing single and double dotted dividing lines. Strip of three 5pf violet Official, 1875, imperforate (No. 201a), used on 5pf violet Official envelope.

Baden. 1851, vertical used strip of six kr buff 9kr green (error of

color), used and superb. 1864 68. 3kr rose, imperforate, used on piece with 1kr black. Land-Post, 1862: Half of 12kr yellow, used on entire as 6kr. Four copies and a half of 12kr yellow used on entire with two 1kr and three

3kr yellow.

Bavaria was very strong and contained many out of the way things among them being, 1849, unused block of twelve 1kr black in 4 rows of 3, with left margin of sheet, the outside stamp of the bottom row being the rare tête bêche variety. 1867, used block of six 18kr red. 1870-73, unused pair each 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12 and 18kr, exhibition reprints in very pale colors 1874, unused block of 15, 1mk violet 1870-73, three 12kr lilac used on letter with 6kr Diagonal half of 18kr yellow 1850-58, used on entire as 9kr also do, do. of 3kr blue, 1849, in similar condition

1881 imperforate block of nine 3pfg green (No. 48a) with corner margins of sheet, also a used single copy of the same variety. Block of ten (2x5) 10pf carmine, 1881, imperforate and unused with full margins and showing Plate No. 14 in upper, left corner; also a used pair of the same stamp on

entire, postmarked Würzburg, 1887.

Unpaid Letter Stamps: 1862, fine used pair 3kr, left stamp being the error Empfange (No. 101a) 1876, 10pf grey, used error Empfanper (No. 106); also a used pair of the same stamp one being the error. Vertical pair of 10pf grey (No. 106), upper stamp being error Zahlhar Pair of 10pf grey, perf. 11½ (either No. 106 or 109), without the red overprint and postmarked Otteberg ¼. 1809-95, 3pf grey and pair of "2" in red on 3pf grey (No. 114), used on letter with 3pf brown 1890. A used copy of the 3pf grey, 1889, 95, (No. 111) with inverted surcharge.

Mecklenburg Strelitz was splendidly represented by used stamps all in magnificent condition. The two shades of ¼sg; pair ¼sg orange, used on original with 2sg blue. Vertical strip of three ⅓sg and single copy each ⅓sg and the rare 1sch violet. The following, all used on entires and superb:

—pair ¼sg orange; two pairs of do. do.; pair and strip of three ⅓sg green;

isch violet; 2x3sg; pair of 3sg

Mecklenburg Schwerin used 4th red rouletted (No. 4), loose and also on letter. 2s grey lilac loose, on letter and also used on an entire 3s yellow

envelope.

Oldenburg, mostly used and superb. 1852-55, single and vertical strip of three ½sg green. 1858. ½g green, unused and used. 1860, used pairs of each ½g brown. ⅓sg green and ⅓sg moss green; strip of three ½g brown. The following on the entire letters:—1858, vertical strip of three ⅓sg green superb; 2g rose, 3g yellow; 2g and pair 3g; 2g and 2g. 1860 issue, pair ⅙g orange; pair ⅙g brown; 1858, ⅙g. ½g and 1g the three used on a cover addressed to Cuba. Two ⅓sg moss green; pair and single do do.

Schleswig Holstein, 1850, pair 2s rose, used on piece of letter, with heavy postmark, as usual with these stamps; single 2s rose with rare circular post mark. "1" in three rings, superb; 1s and 2s usen together on cover. Diagonal

half of 1 1/4 s blue, 1864 65, used on cover as 1/2 s (No. 18a.)

Herr Koch showed also a splendid lot of rarities of all countries, nearly every stamp being in exceptional condition and forming with his other stamps

one of the most interesting exhibits, among them being:-

Nevis, 1867. 1s yellow green, used; 1879, 6d litho., used; 1882-83, 6d green unused. Virgin Islands, 1867-68, 6d rose, perf. 15, unused. Turks Islands, 1893, unused block of ten ½ on 4d. Lagos, 1885 86, 2-6, 5s and 1cs, unused Zulu'and, £5, used Orange River Colony, 1900, unused pairs each 6d and 1s, one stamp in each pair being error with figure of value

omitted. Zanzibar on India, 2a blue doubly surcharged, unused. British Columbia, 1868, perf. 14, 10c and 1d, unused Canada, 12d black, used. Barbados, 1878, used uncut pair 1d on half of 5sh. Trinidad, 1852-58, 1d deep blue, litho, first state of plate, used; O S. 5s, unused. St. Vincent, 5s, star wmkd., unused and used; 4d on 1s vermilion, used Tobago, 1879 80, 5s slate and £1 violet, C. C. wmk, unused. British Guiana, 1850, 12c indigo blue, cut square, used, very fine: 1850, 1c magenta and 4c blue, used; 1856, 4c magenta, superb used copy. New Foundland 1857, 1s scarlet vermilion, used. New Brunswick, 1s used. Nova Scotia, 1s violet and 1s cold violet, Queensland, 1860, 6d green, imperf., used. New South Wales, used vertical pair, 1d red Sydney view with and without clouds, superb. United States, 1846, 5c Baltimore on bluish, used on piece St Louis, 10c, used, Department of State, 2, 5, 10 and 20d, unused. Justice, 90c, unused. Providence, sheet of 12 containing 11 at 5c and 1 at 1cc, originals Guatemala, 1882, with center inverted, 2c and 2oc, unused, 5c used. Azores, 1868, 5r black, imperf, unused; 10r yellow, used; 1869 25r rose with inverted surcharge, unused (No. 16a); 1882 85, 15or blue, unused Buenos Ayres, 3 pesos green, 4 pesos vermilion and two good shades of 5 pesos orange, all used. Philippine Islands, 1854, used, 5c orange, 1cc carmine, 1cc rose and ir slate blue corros (No 4c). Uruguay, 1856, 80c green and ir vermilion, used. Colombia, 1862, 20c red used. Antioquia, 1868, 21/2c blue, 5c reen and 1p red, used. Congo, 1895, 10c blue and black with inverted center; and the following varieties of the Postal Packet stamps: - Horizontal strip of three 3fr 50c lilac (No. 51), unused, center stamp being without surcharge. Vertical pair of the same stamp unused showing the surcharges tête bêche. An unused single copy of No 51 with the surcharge in blue. 1888, 3fr 50c violet, used (No 54). 1893, 3fr 50c grey, unused (No 55), but with inverted unframed surcharge. Guinea, 1879, 5r black and 25r rose, unused. Cape Verde 1877. pair 4or blue, unused, one stamp being the error inscribed "Mozambique." Hawaii, 1859 65, 1c black, with error of inscription HA.... E, unused. 1893, 10c black, Prov. Govt. in red, doubly surcharged, used. Servia, 1866, Vienna print, used pair, 10p orange Bulgaria, 1882, error of color, 5s red, used on letter. Portugal, used block of four 100r lilac, first issue Austria, Mercury, 1851-56, rose and yellow used, vermilion, unused. Lombardy Venice, 1850, 15c red on laid paper (No. 4b), used France, 1849-50, 1fr vermilion, used, loose and also a copy on entire. 1871-74, error 15c "se tenant" with the 10c, unused. Naples, 1/2t blue, cross, 3 used singles and a copy on entire newspaper; 1/2t blue, arms, used, and a copy on cover. Tuscany, 3 lire, used, very fine. Italy, 1856-58, 80c ochre with inverted head, used on piece. French Colonies, used pair, each 1876, 4c gray and 1871, 4oc orange with numeral in the second type (No 12a). Alexandria, 1900, 25c rose, with inverted surcharge, unused Morocco, 1891, error, 10c on 25c rose, unused Zanzibar, Unpaid, 1898, 1 anna, with inverted surcharge, unused. Finland, all used. 1856, 10k rose, laid paper, superb; 1866-67, block of four 1m yellow brown, 8p green, serpentine perf. 10 1/2; tête bêche pairs of the following: -1875-81, 5p orange, 20p ultramarine (two), 1885, 20p yellow (two) Sweden, error "tretio" ore vermilion, used; Official, 1889, 10 on 120 blue and 10 on 240 orange, with inverted surcharges, used. Holland, 1867, 15c brown, perf. 101/2x10, on blued paper, used. Great Britain, 1d black V. R; 10d red brown plate II, used; O. W Official, 5d and 10d used. Heligoland, mk 1 and 5 'se tenant" in an unused pair. Ionian Isles, used on originals, 1d blue, and ½d orange and 1d blue Spain, all used, 1851, 1, 2r red (two), and two more copies of the same stamp, used on piece with 6c and pair 10r. 1852, 2r red (two) Madrid, 3c used on entire 1854, 2c on blue paper, superb; 1r pale blue on blue paper and also the rare 2r in the same condition. 1855, two strips of six 1r, used on piece and postmarked, one of the strips containing the error 2r blue India, 1854. ½a red unused, 4a red and blue with blue wavy lines and rosettes used, superb Ceylon 1857, 4d rose, imperf.. used on piece with 5d Perak, 1880, "one cent" on 2c rose, error with 'one" inverted, unused in a pair with the normal stamp British Protectorate, 1888, 2, 2-6, 5 and 10s, unused. British Central Africa, 1891, £5, unused, £2 and £10, used; 1895, £10 and £25, used Mauritias, 1848, d orange (two singles and a pair), 2d blue (two), Post Paid, in the first state of the plate, used; 1858, 2d blue filet head used (two). Transvaal unused blocks of four each 6d blue on rose, 1877, imperf and a similar block with inverted surcharge, also used single copies of the 3d and 1s of this issue, surcharged in red Swazieland, 6d blue with inverted surcharge, used; pair ½d grey, used, one stamp being error "Swazielan"; 10s brown, unused.

In addition to the above Herr Koch exhibited also a most interesting lot of uncut entire sheets of Germany, States and Colonies among which I noted the following:—

Hamburg, 4sch green, imperf., 13x8, inscribed at top HAMBURGISCHE POSTMARKEN, each row numbered on side margins (from top to bottom) 1 to 12. Bremen logros black, perf, 6x6. Lubeck, the rare reprints of the 1st type, 1/2, 1, 1/2, 2, 21/2 and 4sch unwmkd; 5x5. These differ from the originals in that the sheets contain only 25 stamps as against 100 in the original sheets, the colors are also considerably brighter than in the originals; 1863-65, 1/2, 1, 11/2, 2, 21/2 and 4sch, also reprints in sheets of 5x10 and imperforate Original sheets of Lubeck 1st type, 10x10, 1/2, 2 (with the two errors), 21/2 and three shades of 4sch green. Wurtemberg, 7ckr, 2x3; 1kr green, 1874, perf, 5x10; mk 5 black and blue, 5x10; official, 1mk yellow, 5x10. Alsace-Lorraine, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 25c with full margins, 15x10. Saxony, 1863, five sheets of ang in fine shades from violet to grey blue. Pavaria, a very extensive and fine lot including the recently unearthed and much discussed find. 1849-58, 1kr pink, 3, 6, 9, 12 and 18kr; 1862, 1, 3, 6, 9 12 and 18kr brick red, two panes of 9x5 of each, 1867 issue 6kr blue 9kr bistre 12 kr red and 1868. 6kr bistre, two panes of 6x5 of each. 1870-73. 12kr lilac, perf., two panes of 6x5, 1876, 5pf blue green and 5opf scarlet, two panes of 6x5. 1888. 50pf deep brown, two panes of 5x10 showing Plate No. 16 in upper left corner of left hand pane. Unpaid. 3kr black, 1862, two panes of 5x9, the error EMPFANGE being No. 9 in the left hand pane. German Empire a large number of sheets of all issues from 1872 onwards, including the mk. 2 violet 875.77, and of the 1900 issue (Reichspost) three shades of mk. 1, two each of mk. 2 and mk. 3 and one of mk. 5, 5x4 also full sets of this issue surcharged "Specimen", 2 to 8opf 10x10 and mk. 1 to 5. 5x4. Hamburg, Saxony. Prussia, Thurn and Taxis, North German Confederation, commoner kinds only, Heligoland including mk. 1 and mk. 5. German I evant, 1st issue and the current set, also a very complete collection of German Colonial stamps (Eagle type) two to three shades of some and including the rarest kinds also three sheets of German China, 1900, 5 on 10pfg

T. Hupfeld-Medal under section (a).

For his unused collection of Germany, States and Colonies in 11 albums, as shown at Paris in 1900. The collection was not shown in detail, with the exception of the superb proofs etc of Thurn and Taxis and a fine set of entire sheets of Bremen.

E. Paulus - Silver medal and Diploma.

For a very neatly mounted single specimen general collection (mostly used) of Germany, German Levant, the commoner German Colonies, Baden, Bavaria, Bremen, Bergedorf (including used 1, 3 and 4s), Brunswick, Alsace-Lorraine, Hamburg (including both 9s used), Hanover (including 1850 1gg blue unused), Lubeck, Schleswig Holstein, Thurn and Taxis, Wurtemberg (including used pair 70kr), Mecklenburg Schwerin (including 4 red solid background, rouletted), Oldenburg (including 1/3 green 1852 55 and do. 1858 issue both superb used), Saxony, 3pf red unused and used, error ½ng pale blue unused etc., etc.

To be continued.

Counterfeit of the 200 reis of the 1900 Issue of Brazil

In the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHILATELY for August, 1901, we described counterfeits of the 300 and 500 reis of the 1894-97 issue, which had. been used to defraud the government. We also mentioned that a counterfeit of the 200 reis was said to exist. The same correspondent who sent us: the previous information has now kindly shown us a counterfeit of the 200 reis blue, on the original cover and cancelled March 28, 1903 For the benefit of our readers we will describe a few of the points wherein this counterfeit differs from the genuine stamp:

The impression is cleaner and sharper. This is particularly noticeable in the ruled lines which form the background of various parts of the stamp which are usually blurred in the originals The lines behind the words "REIS" are especially distinct, while on the originals these words often appear as though on a solid panel. In the spandrels above "REIS" the counterfeits have crossed vertical and horizontal lines, while the genuine stamps have only horizontal lines, the lower ones being broken and irregular.

The white face of the numerals "200" is ornamented with dots and dashes. These have nearly disappeared in most originals, but are very dis-

tinct in the counterfeits, making the figures appear bluer.

The shading lines of the face are heavier, more regular and less brokens to represent lights and shadows. The central oval is surrounded by a thing sharp line in the counterfeit and a broad, heavy one in the genuine stamps.

The leaves of the laurel wreath have each a strong, dark outline and the one at the right forms a straight line with the stem.

The letters of "UNIDOS DO BRAZIL" are 13/4mm high, instead of 11/2mm. The color is a dark blue, which does not differ materially from that of the genuine stamps.

The perforation, like that of the counterfeits described in 1901, gauge s.

United States Envelopes.

THE 2 CENTS DARK LAKE OF 1899.

We reprint below an open letter which appeared in the Weekly Philatelic Era of May 2nd, together with a rejoinder by our publishers.

EDITOR Weekly Philatelic Era:

The Scott Stamp & Coin Co, Ltd, in March, 1903, issue of the American Journal of Philately in explaining why they have omitted from their standard catalogue the U. S. envelope 1899 issue, 2c dark lake, die B on

white, which is No. 1598 in their 1901 catalogue, state as follows:

"Two or three years ago we purchased several of these envelopes and accidentally left them for a few days where they were exposed to light, though not to direct rays of the sun. To our surprise the color changed to light red. Our conclusions was that a color which was so easily bleached might have been as easily darkened by other atmospheric conditions."

We admit that their standard catalogue has a powerful influence with many collectors, and, therefore, we will give a few facts which they do not

publish about these envelopes.

In July, 1899, the Regatta Committee of the Corinthian Yacht Club ordered the printing of 'Regatta Committee, Corinthian Yacht Club, Marblehead' in the upper left hand corner of 2c envelopes current issue, white paper, size 13.

One of these envelopes was received by Mr. R. F. Burns, a member of the Boston Philatelic Society. The red brown color attracted Mr. Burns' attention. Naturally the first thing done was to find out more about this

envelope.

The investigation revealed the following facts. The envelopes were bought at the Boston Post Office. A portion of one box contained the red brown, and the balance of the box contained the bright carmine regular color. The color of all the red brown envelopes is the exact shade and does not vary from dark to light.

October 26th Mr Burns sent one of these red brown envelopes to the

Post Office Department asking the cause of the red brown color.

The following official letter explains all:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF THE

THIRD ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL,

Stamp Division.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 6, 1899.

MR. R. F. BURNS,

32 Union St., Boston.

Sir:—In reply to your inquiry of the 26th ult., I have to inform you that the stamped envelope with the 2-cent stamp with false color embossed upon it, submitted by you, was so printed by an oversight, the green ink which had been used in the receptacles for that purpose on the machines not having been entirely removed from the receptacle before the carmine was placed in it for printing the 2-cent stamps.

The sample envelope is returned herewith. It is believed that not more than a hundred such envelopes were printed.

Yours respectfully,

EDWIN C. MADDEN, Third Assistant Postmaster General.

We also have experimented with these envelopes by applying peroxide of hydrogen which bleached the dark lake to orange red, and not to carmine or the regular color. Last week we took two of these envelopes and marked both: one we put back in the box from which it was taken, the other we put three feet from the window on top of our desk, the color on envelope towards the window. To day, (April 24th), it being eight days that it was ex posed to light (not to the rays of the sun), we examined both envelopes, and to our surprise the light did not change the dark lake to light red in fact, the exposed envelope is only faded a very little, but it is still the dark lake. The surprising part is that the Scott Stamp & Coin Co.'s envelope came from the same lot, and that the color on their envelopes was changed to light red in a few days, and that our envelopes stood the test of light for eight days without turning light red.

To sum up the whole argument, we will state that in our humble opinion, the 2c dark claret envelope is an error in color beyond a question of doubt in my mind; caused by the green ink being mixed with the carmine, as stated by the postoffice department, and that our experimenting has convinced us that the application of peroxide of hydrogen will bleach the dark claret to orange red, but not to carmine or to the regular color, which I have seen in different shades, also that the envelopes by being exposed to light (not to the direct rays of the sun) for eight days will not change from dark claret

to light red.

Unless the Scott Stamp & Coin Co., Ltd., can produce the exact color of the dark claret from the carmine envelopes, or unless they can change the dark claret to the exact color of the carmine, we will consider that their opinion about the 2c dark claret is erroneous. If the Scott Stamp & Coin Co. would omit all stamps and envelopes which they now list and which would change in color by being exposed to light they would reduce the size of their next catalogue, and it would be a big saving in their next year's catalogue printer's bill.

As some of these envelopes have been sold through the advertisements which have appeared in the Weekly Philatelic Era, we hope that you will

publish this communication.

C. F. ROTHFUCHS.

May 6, 1903.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE Weekly Philatelic Era:

Iu the last number of the *Era* we note Mr. Rothfuchs' letter on the subject of the U. S. envelope, 1899 issue, 2c dark lake, Die B on white. The discussion of shades in this issue of envelopes has already been prolonged to a wearisome extent, and we had hoped it had worn itself out. We had intended not to say anything more on this subject, but there are some statements in Mr. Rothfuchs' letter that cannot be left unanswered, without placing the publishers of the Standard Catalogue in an equivocal position.

As we write we have before us three of the envelopes, which we purchased from Mr. Rothfuchs some years ago. One of them is in a color which we think might properly be described as red brown. This envelope has never been exposed to light and, so far as we can tell, is of the same shade

as at the time of purchase. The second envelope is an orange red color, and the third is half one shade and half of the other. The last two have been exposed to light (only one-half of the stamp in the case of the third envelope), and this exposure, and this alone, brought about the change in color, in spite of Mr. Rothfuchs' assertion that such exposure "will not change from dark

claret to light red."

We have always been regardful of our position and reputation and careful of the quality of the stamps that we sell, and, so far as possible, we have avoided handling repaired stamps, changelings, etc. It has been our experince that chemical experiments with stamps are seldom instructive and usually rather puerile and savor of what the boys call "monkeying". We have avoided such child's play. For this reason we have made no effort to produce the dark shade from ordinary envelopes, though we suspect that sulphuretted hydrogen might have the desired effect. We are therefore not in the position to accept the challenge to produce the dark shade. If the reader will refer to our statement in the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHILATELY, which is quoted in the Era, he will find that we state: "Our conclusion was that a color which was so easily bleached might have been as easily darkened by other atmospheric conditions." Observe that we give our opinion as to the possibility of darkening, but do not claim any positive knowledge that it can be done.

Mr. Rothfuchs also says, "Peroxide of hydrogen will bleach the-dark claret to orange red but not to carmine or the regular color" Light will also produce the same effect But on what authority does Mr. Rothfuchs make the assertion that carmine and not orange red is the regular color? If he will look in his own stock he will find these 2c envelopes in many shades, from pale rose to carmine and from pale orange red to scarlet. How does he know one shade is "regular" more than the other? The same variations of color are also to be found in the current issue. We have another friend who is trying to induce recognition for envelopes of this same 1899 issue, but printed in orange, and he submits as evidence copies with stamps in many shades of orange, salmon and rose, often two or more shades on the

same stamp.

Now, let us take up Mr. Madden's statement that the envelope in red brown "was so printed by an oversight, the green ink which had been used in the receptacles for that purpose on the machines not having been entirely removed from the receptacle before the carmine was placed in it for printing the 2c stamp." We do not happen to know anything about the quality of ink used in printing envelopes, but we anticipate that it does not differ greatly from that employed for adhesive stamps. We have been informed by a man, who spent a life-time in the work, that the inks used for printing adhesive stamps are almost as thick as putty. Can you conceive two inks of this consistency mingling when placed in the same receptacle? Mr. Rothfuchs endorses the statement that the brown color is made by a combination of green and carmine. Then we are to understand that, by exposing the envelopes to light, we fade out the green and leave the red. This is absurd. Put in the sunlight some of the I cent envelopes, which were printed in this identical green ink, and the color will remain, to all intents and purposes, unchanged; put the red ones in the same place, and they will fade. Unless the laws of nature are to be set aside, these combination envelopes should fade to green and not red, But they don't!

Lastly, we wish to refer to a point which touches us personally. In a concluding paragraph Mr. Rothfuchs says: "If the Scott Stamp & Coin

Co. would omit all stamps and envelopes which they now list and which would change in color by being exposed to light, they would reduce the size of their next catalogue." Nearly all colors will change when exposed to light, and, carried to its logical conclusion, this would mean the omission of so much that there would be practically no catalogue. Possibly this is what Mr Rothfuchs meant, but the effect of his remark on the ordinary reader is quite different. The conclusion would be that we are now including in our catalogue colors which have been produced by some external action, and that we are acting in bad faith toward collectors by listing and thus offering for sale, varieties which are practically fraudulent. This is a serious accusation. We can only say that we have always, taken the greatest care with our catalogue and have endeavored to keep down the number of shades, and have been careful to describe them, as far as possible, from unused specimens. with full gum, and in the condition in which they came from the post office. We have no desire to add unnecessarily to the number of stamps to be collected.

SCOTT STAMP & COIN CO.

British Stamps Go Here.

RED EDWARDS CARRY LETTERS JUST LIKE RED WASHINGTONS.

The Sun received yesterday a letter from a man in this city calling attention to the similarity between our new two cent postage stamp, with Washington's likeness on it, and the English one penny stamp bearing the likeness of King Edward VII. Accompanying the letter were four of the English stamps which had been passed through the New York Post Office on letters without being detected and without the least delay. Three of the stamps went through the office on Wednesday within a few hours of each other. The man who tried the experiment did so to convince some of his friends that the stamps were too much alike.

Both are of light red, and look, in fact, in this respect as though they might have come from the same press. They are of the same size In other particulars they differ considerably on close inspection but are enough alike in general appearance to pass in the hurried examination which letters

get in going through the ordinary delivery service.

Assistant Postmaster Morgan, when told yesterday that the English stamps were passing through the New York Post Office, made a memorandum of the fact and had the different departments notified. The striking sameness in the color, he said, could be accounted for partly at leat, by the fact that at the last Postal Congress in Washington in 1897 a rule was adopted that postage stamps representing the typical union rates, or their equivalents in the money of each country, should be prepared as far as possible in the same colors—stamps of a value of 25 centimes, or five cents in dark blue; those of 10 centimes, or two cents, in red, and those of 5 centimes, or one cent, in green.—New York Sun.



Brazil —A valued correspondent in Para informs us that an issue of official stamps is about to appear.

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BRITISH HONDURAS.—We illustrate the new 2 pence stamp.



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CURACAO.—Mr. M. D. Senior has shown us the 25c on 30c gray of 1895 with double surcharge.

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ELOBEY, ANNOBEN Y CORISCO.—These are three islands situated in the Gulf of Guinea, south of Fernando Po and west of French Congo. The first has 300 inhabitants, the second 700 and the last 2000. They belong to Spain and we believed until now (states L'Echo de la Timbrologie) that the stamps of Spanish Guinea were alone employed there. We were, it seems, in error, for it is now announced that a set in the same type with the inscription "Elobey, Annoben y Corisco. 1903" is about to appear. There are to be 18 values, ranging from 1/200 to 10 pesetas! But where then will the stamps of Spanish Guinea be employed? Including the series for this colony and Fernando Po, Spain's Colonial Empire is likely to be responsible for 54 new varieties every year. If things go on at this rate, the Empire will soon have as many stamps as inhabitants. In fact, we should imagine, if on the stamp side we reckon the issues of the Empire, both past and present, together with the revenue series, matters would be about even!—Ewen's Weekly Stamp News.

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Fiji.—We have herewith the type of the King's head issue.



JAPAN.—L'Echo de la Timbrologie informs us that a large label, printed in violet and inscribed "Reservé pour l'enregistrement", has appeared in this country. No value is indicated on the label, but it is sold at the post office at the rate of five for one sen.

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NEW ZEALAND.—We have seen the current one penny stamp, water-marked single-lined Star and N. Z, imperforate horizontally.

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NIUE.—Last month we chronicled the appearance of three New Zealand stamps surcharged for this island, including the 1sh. We now illustrate these three varieties.

It appears that there was an error in the surcharge on the 1sh stamp. As will be seen, the surcharge reads "Tahae Sileni". The literal translation of this is "thief shilling"—the correct word for 'one" is "Taha". This error was discovered after something less than a hundred of the stamps had been sold to dealers and collectors. The stamps were at once withdrawn from sale, and, as far as possible those that were given out were recalled, the authorities even going to the trouble of cabling to England for one lot. The stamp therefore bids fair to be something of a rarity.







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PEURHYN ISLAND.—We reproduce the three stamps recently issued for use in this island







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PERSIA.—Mr. Wm. Thorne has shown us the one kran red with the surcharge "PROVISOIRE 1319" inverted.

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PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.—The Postmaster General has ordered that on and after Oct. I United States postage stamps overprinted "Philippines" shall not be accepted for postage on matter mailed within the United States, and United States postage stamps without the Philippine overprint shall not be accepted for postage in the Philippine Islands.—New York Times.

Russia.—The 3 kopecs stamp has now appeared on vertically laid paper.

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SAMOA. - A correspondent has shown the Monthly Journal the 21/2p on ash rose (No. 24 in our catalogue) with double surcharge.

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SENEGAL. - We translate from the Collectionneur de Timbres- Poste :

"Great news! This colony, in its turn, is about to renounce the type in general use in order to have a special series. There will be three types, which are as follows: First the statue of General Faidherbe on the Place du Government at Saint Louis; second, the bridge, 500 metres long, which unites the is'and of Saint Louis to the mainland; third, a view of the docks of Saint Louis The artist (?), in whose hands these compositions have been placed, is a sergent in the Colonial Infantry. Let us hope that he will prove better than his ancient colleague Sergent Triquera, who designed the first stamp of New Caledonia. It is not yet announced what will be the method of impression "

SOMALI COAST.—In La Cote Réelle we read as follows:
"The color of the center of the series in use is about to be modified. It will be the same color as the 30 centimes, that is to say, gray for all values. The 4, 20, 25 and 30 centimes, current, exist with the center inverted. The 5 centimes has given rise to an error, which will probably be rare,—the frame has been printed in the color of the center and vice versa."

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SPAIN .- The Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly states, on the authority of a correspondent, that the 20c orange of 1899 (No. 271 in our catalogue) does mot exist and was not even prepared for issue.

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URUGUAY.-Mr. Wm. Thorne has shown us the 5c blue of 1900 (No. as in the catalogue), in a vertical pair without perforation between.

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VENEZUELA.-We reproduce the design of the provisional issue of Curupano which we chronicled last month.

> -> Correos **≯Vale B. 0,05**k



the new 5c envelope, and can only say that it is quite the peer of the 1c and 2c for ugliness. The bust is marked as being that of Lincoln, otherwise we might have supposed it to be that of Mr. Punch. The design is enclosed in a horizontal oval with the usual dates and inscriptions.

We have also seen a wrapper with stamp of the 2c design.

Envelope.

1903 watermark. 5c dark blue on white

Wrapper.

1903 watermark. 2c red on manila

ARGENTINE REPUBLIO.—It appears that the stamp issued last year, to celebrate the inauguration of the harbor works of Port Rosario, has failed as a speculation. In order to dispose of the large stock on hand, they have been surcharged "Valido por 5 Centavos—Servicio Interior."

Adhesive stamp.
Provisional issue.
5c dull blue

CEYLON.—"Specimen" copies of the following stamps of the King Edward series are reported.

Adhesive stamps.

Watermarked Crown and C. A. Perforated.

3c green
12c olive green and red
15c ultramarine

25c light brown 30c violet and green

colombian Republic.—There seems to be no end to the atrocities perpetrated by this republic. What is more, we find that these things actually do postal duty as we have seen them on letters, so that the hope that they were frauds, and therefore could be excluded from the catalogue, fails us.

Mr. W. F. Gregory has shown us two stamps, which he says were issued sometime ago, and which appear to be part of the regular issue of 1902. They are a trifle larger than other stamps of the series, but resemble them in a general way, having the National coat of arms in a circle in the center; at the top the inscription "CORREOS-REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA" in two lines, and the value below. On the 5 pesos the value is written "5 CINCO 5 PESOS 5" and on the 10 pesos it is written "DIEZ 10 PESOS." latter stamp also has the figures "10" at the upper part of each side.

We have the 50 centavos, with portrait of Simon Bolivar, printed in rose. This color was not included in the list of this stamp which we gave in March. The Monthly Journal also reports the companion 1 peso stamp, with portrait of General Prospero Pinzon, printed in two shades of blue and in a smaller size, 18x24mm., instead of 20x26½mm. The Registration Return Receipt stamp of Antioquia has appeared in a new color. Lastly, we have two stamps in the Department of Bolivar—a 1 peso with

bust of Fernandez Madrio and a 5 pesos with bust of Rodriguez Torices. For unadulterated ugliness, these are about the worst! However, they appear to have served one good purpose, as the agent of the official who sent them to this country informs us that he was ordered to purchase with them a lot of new shirts and some cigarettes with the gentleman's monogram. It scarcely seems necessary to make any comment on the uses to which the Postal Service of this country is being put,

Adhesive stamps.





Imperforate.
5p green on blue
10p green on pale green
Cartagena issue.
Imperforate.

50c rose

Anti:quia,-

Registration Return Receipt stamp. Perforated.

5c slate

Bolivar .-





Adhesive stamps. Imperforate. Laid paper. Ip orange on salmon 5p rose on lilac ERITREA.—The new postage stamps and postage due stamps which we announced in March, have been placed in issue. They are the current stamps of Italy surcharged with the words "Colonia Eritrea" in a straight line.

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated. Black surcharge.

1c brown

2c orange brown

5c blue green

roc claret

20c orange

25c blue

40c brown

45c olive green

50c violet

IL brown and green

5L blue and rose Postage Due stamps.

Perforated.

Black surcharge.

5c orange and maroon

10C " " "

30C " " "

50c " " "

1L blue and carmine 2L blue and brown

5L " " carmine

PRANCE,—We have received two new values of the Sower type, the 10 and 25c Mr. William Thorne has also shown us the 15c of the re-engraved Mouchon type, surcharged "F. M.", for military use.

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated.

roc rose

25c dull blue

Military stamp.

Perforated.

Black surcharge.

15c pale red

French Offices in the Levant.—The Stamp Collector's Fortnightly reports the 3oc stamp for these offices.

Adhesive stamp.
Perforated.
30c violet

Cavalle.—We learn from the Collectionneur de Timbre-Poste that the 20c stamp has been issued.

Adhesive stamp.
Perforated.
20c brown lilac

Offices in Egypt—Port Said.—Le Collectioneur de Timbres-Poste reports the appearance of the 15c stamp in the new type.

Adhesive stamp. Perforated. 15c pale red

GERMANY-Offices in the Levant .-

Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal reports the five mark stamp surcharged "25 PIASTRES 25", in the new type in which the letter "A" has a cross bar at the top.

Adhesive stamp.
Perforated 12.
25pi on 5m black and carmine

GIBRALTAR.—We have seen several values of the new series and understand that, in addition to those we chronicle, there are stamps of 4, 8 and 20 shillings. The values ½ penny to 1 shilling are larger than the stamps of most British Colonials, measuring 19x22½mm. The same design is used for the King's head as appears on other British Colonials, but the portrait is somewhat larger than usual and is placed in a circle with a crown at top and the inscription "POSTAGE &—REVENUE—GIB-RALTAR"; there are ornaments in

each corner and the value in a tablet at the bottom. The 2 shillings stamp measures 22½x38½. It has a portrait of King Edward in a circle with crown above, the whole surrounded by an upright oval inscribed "GIB-RALTAR—POSTAGE & REVENUE". The value is in two lines on a white panel at the bottom and the rest of the design is filled in with ornaments.

Adhesive stamps.

'Watermarked Crown and C. A. Perforated 14. ½p gray green and blue green

1p violet on red
2p gray green and carmine

2½p violet and black on blue 6p violet and purple 1sh black and carmine

2sh gray green and ultramarine

GUATEMALA.—This country has broken out again with a new crop of surcharges. Mr. Albert Perrin has shown us the 1, 2, 6 and 10 centavos of the type first issued in 1886, each surcharged in three lines, "1903—25—CENTAVOS." He informs us that three others of this series have been similarly surcharged, but that these have all been bought up by speculators.

Adhesive stamps.

Provisional issue. Black surcharge.

25c on 1c dark green 25c on 2c carmine

25c on 6c light green 25c on 1cc bistre brown

25c on 75c rose

25c on 150c dark blue

25c on 200c yellow

nal we find reported a variety of stamps, surcharged and otherwise, which have not previously been chronicled by us These include an unsurcharged 50 aur stamp, perforated 12½; a 3 aur of the new type

with the "1 GILDI" surcharge (the one chronicled by us was of the old type with small numeral); and also the 100 aur, surcharged.

Adhesive stamps.
Perf. 12½.
Watermarked Crown.
50a carmine and blue
Provisional issue.

1 GILDI

Surcharged in black

'02-'0

3a yellow (type II) 100a violet and brown

INDIA.—Three more stamps of the King Edward series have appeared, and the same three have also been overprinted "On H. M. S."

Adhesive stamps.
Watermarked Star.
Perforated 14
2a 6p ultramarine
4a olive green
8a violet
Official stamps.
Watermarked Star.
Perforated 14.
Black surcharge.
2a 6p ultramarine
4a olive green
8a violet

Bhopaul. — Ewen's Weekly Stamp News announce that they have received an eight anna stamp, which we believe to be our No. 59, overprinted in red with a character resembling the letter "S". They are informed that this surcharge is intended to alter the title or initial of the Begum from Shah to Sultan, the initial of the latter word being "S" and of the former "Sh", which sounds have separate characters in Indian alphabets.

Adhesive stamp. Imperforate. Red surcharge. 8a blue black Chamba.—The 3 pies stamp with head of King Edward has been surcharged for use in this state.

Adhesive stamp. Watermarked Star. Perforated 14. 3p gray

Gwallor,—The Timbrophile Belge informs us that the current 3 pies stamp has been overprinted with the name of this state and the word "SERVICE".

Official stamp.
Watermarked Star.
Perforated 14.
3p gray

Jhind.—The publishers of the Monthly Journal have received the ½a light green with head of the Queen surcharged for official use in this state.

Official stamp.
Watermarked Star.
Perforated 14.
½a light green

Patiala.—Four more stamps with head of King Edward have been surcharged for use in this state.

Adhesive stamps.
Watermarked Star.
Perforated 14.
Black surcharge.
3p gray
1a carmine
2a violet
3a brown orange

MACAO.—Ewen's Weekly Stamp News reports two values of the new series which were not included in our previous chronicle.

Adhesive stamps.
Perforated.
16a blue on blue
78a black on blue

MALTA.—We have to chronicle two additional values of the new series.

Adhesive stamps.
Perforated 14.

Watermarked Crown and C. A. 1p carmine and black 1sh purple and gray

MEXICO.—In December last we announced some prospective changes in the colors of the current issue.

Mr. Geo G. Bergman has now shown us the 10c in new colors.

Adhesive stamp. Perforated 15

Watermarked "Servicio Postal de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos." roc blue and orange

NEW SOUTH WALES.—The new stamp of 2sh 6p, which has been promised for some time, has been issued. The design is adopted from that of the 8 pence of the 1888 issue. It has a lyre bird in the center, the inscription "NEW SOUTH WALES POSTAGE" curved above, and the value in figures in each lower corner. We shall illustrate the design in our next number.

Adhesive stamp. Perforated 111/2.

Watermarked Crown and N. S W. 2sh 6p blue green

NEW ZEALAND.—We have seen the 1½ pence stamp of the 1901 type printed in a curious pale bistre shade. The current 2 shillings stamp has been printed on laid paper.

Adhesive stamps.

Watermarked double-lined Star and N. Z.

Perforated 11.

11/2 p pale bistre

Laid paper.

Perforated 11.

2sh blue green

ORANGE RIVER COLONY.—A number of stamps of the new type are reported in European journals. These are probably "Specimen" copies, though statements to that effect are not made.

Adhesive stamps.

Watermarked Crown and C. A.

Perforated 14.

½p green

2p light brown 2½p ultramarine

3p violet

6p violet and red 1sh orange and red

PARAGUAY.-

We illustrate the new issue:



We learn from various philatelic journals that the series has also been surcharged for official use. The surcharge is in small capital letters and is placed diagonally, as in the issue of 1892.

Official stamps.

Perforated.

Black surcharge.

ic gray

2c dark green

5c blue

10c orange brown

20c carmine

30c blue

60c purple

PERSIA.—There seems to be no end to the new varieties issued in this country. In March we expressed a doubt of the type-set stamps with the word "Shahi" spelled with an initial

capital and lower case letters. At that time we thought it quite probable that these were reprints made for collectors, but the last number of the Monthly Journal says of these stamps: "We have received a letter from Mirza Hadi, of Paris, assuring us that these were regularly issued, as a further supply of provisional stamps was required, pending the receipt of the new issue. He shows us several values postmarked at different places in Persia, and used in the course of October and November of last year."

It appears that these stamps exist with the red surcharge of a lion in an ornamental octagon, with the surcharge "Provisoire 1319" in black, and we have now received six values of the set surcharged with a lion in a circle, with *Provi*soire* above, while below are Persian characters at left, "1903" at right, and an asterisk between The whole design is surrounded by an octagon of thin lines.

The Weekly Philatelic Era also reports the surcharge "P.L. Teheran" as coming on the 2 shahis of the second type. The stamp previously chronicled by us was of the first type.

In addition to all this, the Monthly Journal reports the 8s of the unsurcharged issue of 1899 (No. 144 in our catalogue), with the surcharge "Provisoire 1319". This would be No. 170a in our catalogue.

The same journal also reports the is gray, surcharged with the seal in purple (No. 152), with the additional surcharge in black as on the stamp last described. This should be No. 179a in the catalogue.

Adhesive stamps.
Imperforate.

Surcharged in red



is gray and yellow

2s brown " "
3s green " "

5s red and yellow

ros olive bistre and yellow

128 blue and yellow

Surcharged in black



is gray and yellow

2s brown "

3s green "

5s red "

12s blue "

Surcharged in blue, Lion and "Provisoire 1903" in octagon.

is gray and yellow

2s brown "

5s red "

10s olive bistre and yellow

128 blue and yellow

ik violet and blue

Surcharged in black



2s brown and yellow Perforated.

Surcharged in black



On issue of 1899. 8s orange on green On issue of 1900. 1s gray

ROUMANIA.—L'Echo de la Timbrologie announces and illustrates a new issue for this country. The principal feature of the lower values is a diligence drawn by four horses. The higher values are larger; they have a portrait of King (harles I., and show the facade of the new post office, a diligence, a winged wheel and various other devices. A curious feature of the issue is that four denominations appear in both types.

The Monthly Journal reports four values of the postage due stamps on unwatermarked paper with rose gum.

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated.

Type I.

1b olive brown

3b brown violet

5b green

10b rose 13b black

25b blue

40b deep green

50b yellow

Type II.

25b blue

40b gray green

50b orange 1L brown

2L red

30b

5L violet

Postage Due stamps. Perforated 111/2.

Rose gum.

2b emerald green

5b "

SALVADOR.—In various of our contemporaries we find chronicled two more provisional stamps, made

by surcharging the stamps of the issue

of 1900 with new values.

Adhesive stamps.

Provisional issue. Black surcharge.

IC on 2C rose

ic on 5c dull blue

BERVIA.—A 15 paras stamp has been added to the current series.

Adhesive stamp. Perforated 111/2.

15p violet

TAHITI.—A correspondent sends us the current 25 and 40 centimes stamps of French Oceania surcharged, in three lines, "TAHITI—10—CENTIMES", which we judge from

his letter to have been issued in the latter part of March. He informs us that the 10c on 40c was the first printed and of it about 40,000 stamps were made, practically all of which were at once bought up locally and very few were used for letters. They are being held at one franc each with prospects of an advance in price. Soon after this lot was bought up the 25 centimes stamp was similarly surcharged. Of this lot about 100,000 were made, but the sale was restricted from the first and speculators were only able to secure limited quantities of them, so that everybody got a share. Our correspondent says that there are still about 25,000 of the stamps unsold in the post office, but they are no longer sold but merely affixed to letters which are presented for mail-

Adhesire stamps.
Provisional issue.



Perforated. Carmine surcharge. 10c on 25c black on rose



Black surcharge.

TASMANIA.—The current 9 pence stamp (Queen's head), has appeared on paper watermarked V and Crown. The Australian Philatelist chronicles the 1 and 2 pence pictorial issue with compound perforation.

Adhesive stamps.

Watermarked V and Crown.

Perforated 121/2.

9p blue

Perforated 11x121/2.

sp dull red

2p violet

VICTORIA.—The current ½p and ip stamps have been seen with a new perforation, 11.

Adhesive stamps.

Watermarked V and crown

Perforated 11.

½p blue green

ip rose

western Australia.—We have received three new stamps from this country—an 8 and 9 pence in the types of the 1 and 4 pence of the 1890-93 issue and a 10 pence in the type of the 2½ pence of 1901.

It is reported that the current 2p stamp has appeared with perforation

TT

In some of our contemporaries we find chronicled a variety of stationery with stamps adopted from designs now current in Victoria. It is probable that when postage stamps of these values are needed in West Australia, these adopted designs will be used for that purpose. The designs are those of the current Victoria 1½, 2 and 3p, with the name VICTORIA replaced by WEST AUSTRALIA. There is also an

envelope, wrapper and postal card of the value of 1p, the stamp being of the Swan type.

Adhesive stamps.







Perforated 12½. Watermarked V and Crown. Sp pale yellow brown

op orange

10p red

Perforated 11.

2p yellow

Envelope.

rp carmine

Registration envelope.

3p claret

Wrappers.

½p green

ip carmine

Postal cards.

1x1p brick red on buff

11/2x11/2p blue

Letter cards.

ip rose on blue

2p carmine on gray

2p blue on gray



Birmingham Philatelic Society.

March 19th .- Discussion, N. S. W. 1884-1903.

Mr. H. M. Campbell was unanimously elected a member. Mr. J. H. Smyth was thanked for a contribution to the Permanent Collection and for some interesting particulars which he had obtained for the Society in reference to the printing and perforation of N. S. W. stamps. The ordinary unsurfaced of the 1897 issue and the two different varieties of chalk-surfaced paper has caused us some confusion and it was to clear up this difficulty that these investigations were made.

April and .- Paper - New Zealand - Mr. T. W. Peek. Mr. A. Richter was unanimously elected a member.

Messrs L E. Bradbury, G. Fowler and the Boston Philatelic Society were thanked for donations to the Library and Mr. C. Wells for some stamps given to the Collection.

Mr. Peck then gave an interesting paper on the early issues of N. Z. illustrating his remarks by means of his own collection of superb used and unused including many mint blocks of the early imperfs. and perfs.

May 7th - Discussion-Resume of N S. W.

Messrs J. N. Marsden, G. Samarakoon, C. G. Fryer, T. W. Peck, J. A. Margorchis, W. Johannidis and H. Grindall were thanked for donations to the Permanent Collection. The gifts were specially interesting and will materially assist the Society in making a sufficiently pleasing and instructive collection to help to popularize many countries that members do not now collect It was encouraging to hear several members present express their determination to take up other countries ready for next session. Among the donations were mint copies of N. S. W. 9d surcharged in blue and in black, N. Z. 1d no wmk imperf horizontally.

The following is a corrected list of the books we have to part with for

the benefit of the Permanent Collection:

Ewen's W. S. N., Vols. 6, 7, 8; Stamp News, Vols. 7, 8; Stamp News, Annual 1891; Gibbon's M. J., Vols 4, 10; Phil. Chron & Ad., Vols 2, 8; Stamp Collector, Vols 4, 5, 6; Stamp Collector's Fortnightly, Vols 3, 7; P. J. of G. B, Vol 11; Stamps, Vol 4. An almost complete duplicate set of the auction catalogues of —T. Buhl; T. Bull; T. Cheveley; J. Edwards; W. Hardlow; Martin Ray; H. W. Plumridge; Puttick & Simpson; Ventom Bull & Cooper

Offers in cash or stamps to be sent by June 30th at latest. The following programme is proposed for next session:—

Oct. 1, 1903 - Annual Meeting for election of officers, etc.

" 15, " — Display – Mr W B Avery.
Nov 5, " — Paper – So. Australia – Mr. R. Hollick.

" 19, " - " - Portugal & Colonies - Mr. G Johnson.

Dec. 3. " -Auction

Jan. 7, 1904 - Lantern Display - Mr. J. A Margorchis.

Feb 4, "-Paper-Holland & Colonies-Mr. T. W. Peck.

". 25 & 26, 1904 - Auction.

Mch. 4, 1904 - Paper - Norway, Sweden, Denmark - Mr. P. T. Deakin, "H. Grindall.

18, " - " -Ceylon- Mr W. S. Vaughton C. A Stephenson.

" - Display - West Indies - Mr W. Pimm.

- " -Straits Settlements.

The Collectors Club,

351 FOURTH AVENUE,

NEW YORK.

The 93rd meeting of the Board of Governors was held at the Club house on Monday evening, May 11, 1903.

Present: Messrs. Andreini, Dewing, Luff, Rich, Scott and Perrin.

The meeting was called to order at 8.20 P. M., with the President in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The Secretary read a number of communications.

The Treasurer's report, showing a cash balance in bank of \$331.88 exclusive of reserve fund, was approved as read.

The report of the House Committee was read and received.

A vote of thanks was tendered Mr. Chas. Gregory for his kind donation to the Club of two New York Stock Exchange medals (one of silver and one of bronze), suitably framed.

Adjourned 9.30 P. M.

ALBERT PERRIN, Secretary.

Texas Philatelic Association.

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, May 13, 1903.

To the Editor of THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHILATELY:

Dear Sir:—The Seventh Annual Convention of the Texas Philatelic Association was held on April 16, 1903, at Galveston, Texas, with seven members in attendance.

The report of the Secretary Treasurer showed a membership of 37 and \$113.75 in the Treasury. The report of the Exchange Superintendent showed sales during the past year of \$449.71. The Annual Election of Officers resulted as follows:

President, S. V. Pfeuffer, of New Braunfels; First Vice-President, Otto Staerker, of Cuero; Second Vice-President, Emil Gerlich, of Schertz; Secretary-Treasurer, Edward W. Heusinger, of San Antonio; Librarian, G. C. Cuenod, of Galveston; Exchange Superintendent, Chas. Roemer of San Antonio; Associate Trustees, H. G. Askew and H. A. Herzog, of Austin.

The New York Philatelist was retained as official journal, and San Antonio was selected for the convention seat in 1904. The Texas Philatelic Association was organized in 1896, and is strictly a state organization. Our readers in the Lone Star state who are not members are invited to join. Application blanks and further information may be had by addressing the Secretary-Treasurer, Edward W. Heusinger, 133 and 135 W. Commerce Street, San Antonio, Texas.

EDWARD W. HEUSINGER, Secretary- Treasurer.